Amphibians and Mammals

Mammals have few similarities to amphibians compared to the number of differences they share.

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| Characteristics of  Mammals | Similarities  Of both | Characteristics of  Amphibians |
| * Warm blooded * Give birth (except for the monotremes * Mammals have lungs their entire life * Feed their young * Mammals have fur | * Internal organs such as bones, muscles, brains , hearts,, lungs, stomachs, intestines * Reproduce both as adults * Need oxygen and water * Have spines and endoskeletons | * Cold blooded * Lay eggs * Born with gills * Do not feed their young * Amphibians have wet or slimy skin |

What is a [mammal](http://www.readyed.com.au/Sites/zoo/mammal.htm)? Mammals are one of the 6 main classes of animals. Animal classes are groups of animals that scientists consider to be alike in some important ways. Mammals are the animal class that people belong to.

There are only about 4,000 kinds of mammals. This sounds like a lot, but when you consider there are 21,000 kinds of fish and a whopping 800,000 kinds of insects, so mammals are a pretty small class.

Mammals’ bodies are built to maintain just about the same temperature all the time. Warm blood lets the mammals be very active and live in a wide variety of places.

Mammals are everywhere. Polar bears live in very cold areas. Camels live in hot areas. Moles live under the ground. Bats live in caves and fly in the air. Dolphins live in the oceans. Fur and fat help protect mammals who live in the cold. Mammals sweat or pant to release extra heat if they live somewhere toasty.

An example of mammals- Hippopotamuses, rhinoceroses, whales, humans, dogs, cats, bears etc

What is an [amphibian](http://atlantabotanicalgarden.org/kids-schools/what-amphibian)? The term Amphibian comes from the Greek word amphibious. Amphi means “both” and bios means “life”. There are more than 4,000 different kinds of amphibians. Members of this animal class are frogs, toads, salamanders, newts, and caecilians or blindworms.

Examples of amphibians- Frogs, toads, newts and salamanders.